



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

August 5, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

VIA

Mr. Andrew Velasquez III
Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605

Dear President Obama,

We urge you to act quickly on a request to declare a major disaster for the State of Wisconsin in light of the severe storms and flooding that have caused great distress to many communities throughout the State. The request is for federal assistance within Grant, Milwaukee, and Waukesha counties.

As you may know, storms and flooding that occurred from July 20 through July 24, 2010 have caused significant damage to many homes and businesses throughout Wisconsin. Namely, an extensive number of homes throughout the greater Milwaukee area have been hit particularly hard, as sewer overflows have flooded thousands of area residences with untreated wastewater and caused millions of dollars in damage. Further, heavy rainfall from July 22 through July 24, 2010 caused significant flash flooding and resulting damage throughout Grant County. As we speak with constituents across our districts, and observe the aftermath of these storms, it is obvious we must do all we can to provide vital assistance to help speed recovery efforts.

Governor Doyle executed the State Emergency plan on July 22, 2010 and declared a state of emergency in Milwaukee County on July 23, 2010 following the chain of storms and flooding. Further, a request to survey affected areas throughout the state prompted the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Small Business Administration to conduct joint preliminary damage assessments with Wisconsin Emergency Management and other state and local officials throughout Grant, Milwaukee, and Waukesha counties. Having visited affected areas in our districts, it is clear that the response to these storms will be an extremely significant undertaking for local governments and the State.

Governor Doyle has determined that an effective response to these incidents requires additional federal support beyond the continued efforts of the State and affected local governments. Consequently, he has requested a federal disaster declaration for Grant, Milwaukee, and Waukesha counties on July 31, 2010 in order to activate assistance for individuals, families, businesses, and local governments struggling to recover from these severe storms. **We urge you to give thorough and expedient consideration to this request for federal assistance in mitigating the aftermath of these floods and storms.**

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Your swift action will help ensure our communities are able to recover as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Sincerely,



Sandy Pasch
State Representative
22nd Assembly District



Phil Garthwaite
State Representative
49th Assembly District



Lena Taylor
State Senator
4th Senate District



Jason Fields
State Representative
11th Assembly District



Dale Schultz
State Senator
17th Senate District



Frederick Kessler
State Representative
12th Assembly District



Barbara Toles
State Representative
17th Assembly District



Dan Knodl
State Representative
24th Assembly District



Mary Lazich
State Senator
28th Senate District



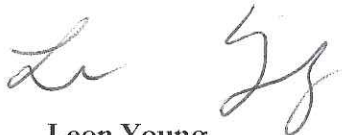
Scott Gunderson
State Representative
83rd Assembly District



Jim Sullivan
State Senator
5th Senate District



Tamara Grigsby
State Representative
18th Assembly District



Leon Young
State Representative
16th Assembly District



Christine Sinicki
State Representative
20th Assembly District



Alberta Darling
State Senator
8th Senate District



Spencer Coggs
State Senator
6th Senate District



Josh Zepnick
State Representative
9th Assembly District



Don Pridemore
State Representative
99th Assembly District